United Nations A/65/PV.1

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

1st plenary meeting
Tuesday, 14 September 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly

The President (*spoke in French*): I declare open the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

Statement by the President

The President (spoke in French): The General Assembly is the pre-eminent forum for global debate. As we meet to begin the work of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the world is slowly recovering from the economic and financial crisis. This recent setback should not, however, discourage us in our struggle against the major calamities afflicting the world. On the contrary, the international community's response to the crisis has shown us that multilateralism is working.

Today, all populations affected by poverty or threatened by war, global warming or natural disasters have the right to expect that our discussions and our actions will relieve their suffering and their pain. All of us who comprise this General Assembly have an important instrument available to us to address the great issues of today. I am convinced of this. In fact, as the Charter tells us, the General Assembly is the pre-eminent forum for global debate. It must be the place for a convergence of efforts and of institutions called upon to establish and assume global governance. There is no subject of concern to man and our planet that could be irrelevant to our debates.

Too often, however, public opinion sees a United Nations with a General Assembly that is powerless, a talk shop with no real impact. I hope that the sixty-fifth session that is now beginning will show that we are able to make a difference. I hope that this session will meet the great expectations placed in us. We have an obligation to deliver results. The issues to be discussed are too serious for that obligation not to be our primary motivation, pushing us to move beyond our purely national interests and truly to work for the benefit of all.

In that connection, I would like to thank the President of the sixty-fourth session, His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, for his enlightened work at the head of our Assembly and for his personal commitment. I also commend and express my gratitude to our Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his tireless commitment in the service of

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10-53260 (E)

our Organization, here in New York and around the world.

The session now beginning will have a heavy agenda. We shall have to focus our energies to make progress on many issues that are crucial for humanity. Three broad areas lie before us.

First, we must make sure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved. In December 2009, the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. On Monday, many heads of State and Government are expected here in New York. This summit will certainly be one of the milestones of the United Nations year, and we do not have the right to fail. Despite the economic crisis, the Millennium Development Goals are within our reach. In particular, we must bridge the gaps in the fight against hunger, child mortality and maternal health. This is possible. Our work next week must result in a sincere commitment and a genuine plan of action to ensure that we reach the ambitious goal that the international community has set for itself.

Secondly, we must reinstate the United Nations and the General Assembly at the centre of global governance. The challenges we face today have acquired a global dimension and require global solutions. Our actions must enjoy broad legitimacy and be the result of inclusive processes. We must improve the mechanisms for information, consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and other actors and tools of global governance.

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance — that is the issue that I would like to see the General Assembly explore further during the general debate. Indeed, this is the subject that I proposed as the special theme following consultations with many permanent representatives, various regional groups and the Secretary-General. We must advocate for a strong, inclusive and open United Nations. As we know, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society make an essential contribution to our work.

However, we must also move forward decisively with internal reforms. Reform of the Security Council remains important. We are all aware of the need for such reform. I would like us to be able to make progress on this matter, but it is for the Member States to take decisions that enjoy broad support and make a convergence of views possible.

Other institutional issues at this session will be the review of the work of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Furthermore, we must continue efforts to revitalize the General Assembly. In that regard, I am counting on members to ensure that our debates begin on time and that we make the most effective use of the time available.

Thirdly, we must promote sustainable development. Climate change, vulnerability to natural disasters and threats to biodiversity are only some of the environmental challenges that affect all States and require a concerted effort from all countries. Environmental issues will figure prominently on our agenda, which includes the high-level meeting on biodiversity during the week of the summit on the Millennium Development Goals.

I believe that it is crucial to increase awareness of the need for economic structures that are more respectful of the environment and of future generations. In this context, the term "green economy" is frequently used. I am aware that some among us are concerned by the use of this term. The adjective and noun "green economy" have different meanings to different groups. Some fears are justified and must be taken into account. Let it be clear from the outset, however, that for me "green economy" does not mean new conditionality, but rather opportunity. It is an opportunity to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of our planet, ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. The world is changing, but the fundamental purposes and principles of the United Nations are timeless.

Our efforts in the three areas that I have just mentioned — poverty eradication, governance and sustainable development — will make essential contributions towards peace and security, international cooperation and friendship between peoples.

The Charter must remain our ultimate guide. Peace and security are our primary calling, and much work remains to be done. This includes all of the conflicts that still ravage our world to this day and cause distress and suffering to hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. It is international cooperation and friendship among peoples that will enable us to make progress in the areas of human rights, development, humanitarian aid, disarmament

and counter-terrorism. It is international cooperation and friendship among peoples that will also enable us to make progress in the areas of health and the environment. These are the values that will allow us to establish a genuine global partnership and to move forward in all areas of crucial importance for peace and security.

My vision is of a strong General Assembly, which should be the main forum for global debate. However, that will require us to learn how to listen to each other. I assure members that I will make myself available so that we can work together in harmony. My door is open. I offer my leadership so that progress can be made, but, above all, I would urge us all to overcome our selfishness and our rivalries for the benefit of humanity.

Item 135 of the provisional agenda

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/65/359)

The President *(spoke in French)*: I would like, in keeping with established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/65/350. It contains a letter from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly, in which he informs the Assembly that six Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I would like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter,

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

May I therefore take it that the General Assembly takes note of the information contained in document A/65/359?

It was so decided.

Items 7 and 134 of the provisional agenda

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Pattern of conferences

> **Letter dated 30 August 2010 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/65/337)**

The President *(spoke in French)*: Members are aware that, pursuant to section I, paragraph 7, of resolution 40/243, no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during the main part of a regular session of the Assembly, unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

On the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, authorization is thus sought for the following subsidiary organs: the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Disarmament Commission, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the International Criminal Court Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to authorize those subsidiary organs of the Assembly to meet during the main part of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.2

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

2nd plenary meeting
Friday, 17 September 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Item 7 of the provisional agenda (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

First report of the General Committee (A/65/250)

The President (*spoke in French*): May I invite the General Assembly to direct its attention to section I of the report of the General Committee? In that section, the Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 2.

May I request the General Assembly now to direct its attention to section II, entitled "Organization of the session", which contains a number of recommendations concerning, inter alia, the General Committee, rationalization of work, the opening and closing dates for the session, the schedule of meetings, the general debate and the conduct of meetings? In paragraph 16, the General Committee recommends that the general debate be held from Thursday, 23 September to Saturday 25 September and from Monday, 27 September to Thursday 30 September 2010.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the fact that the general debate will be held from Thursday, 23 September to Saturday, 25 September, and from Monday, 27 September to Thursday, 30 September 2010?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Regarding all the other recommendations in section II of the memorandum of the Secretary-General concerning established practice, rather than going through them one by one, I believe it would be more efficient for us to address all of these organizational matters concerning the General Assembly as a whole.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all of the information that it is requested to take note of and to approve all the recommendations of the General Committee contained in section II of the report?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Having just adopted the recommendation in paragraph 15 on waiving the requirements of rule 67 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to declare a meeting open, I would like to endorse the practical suggestion that has been made at previous sessions that each delegation designate someone to be present in the meeting rooms at the scheduled times.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assemoly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 37 concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for the review of their programme budget implications?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now invite members to turn their attention to section III dealing with the adoption of the agenda. The question of

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allocation of items will be dealt with subsequently in section IV.

In section III, the General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 45 to 50.

In paragraph 51, in connection with sub-item (i) of item 20 of the draft agenda, "Harmony with Nature", the General Committee recommends that sub-item (i) of item 20 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading A, "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences". May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In paragraph 52, in connection with item 29 of the draft agenda, "Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services", the General Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the question of the inclusion of this item to a later date.

In paragraph 53, the General Committee recommends that item 41 of the draft agenda, "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte", be included in the agenda of the current session under heading B, "Maintenance of international peace and security", on the understanding that there would be no consideration of this item by the General Assembly until further notice. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In paragraph 54, the General Committee recommends that the consideration of item 61 of the draft agenda, "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India", be deferred to the sixty-sixth session and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In paragraph 55, in connection with item 150 of the draft agenda, "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the General Committee recommends that item 150 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In paragraph 56, the General Assembly is informed that the General Committee decided to postpone to a later date its consideration of the question of the inclusion of item 164 of the draft agenda, entitled "Compensation for damage caused by colonialism".

In paragraph 57, the General Assembly is also informed that the General Committee decided to postpone to a later date its consideration of the question of the inclusion of item 165 of the draft agenda, entitled "Verification of the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations".

In paragraph 58, in connection with item 166 of the draft agenda, entitled "Enhancing and expanding the functions and powers of the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the question of the inclusion of this item to a later date.

With respect to paragraph 59, the General Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly not to include item 167 of the draft agenda, "Investigation into the invasion of Iraq", in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In paragraph 60, the General Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly not to include item 168 of the draft agenda, "Investigation into the wars that have broken out since the establishment of the United Nations", in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): With respect to paragraph 61, the General Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly not to include item 169 of the draft agenda, "Investigation into assassinations carried out since the establishment of the United Nations", in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to the agenda which the General Committee recommends in paragraph 62 of its report for adoption by the General Assembly, taking into account the decisions just adopted with respect to the draft agenda.

Bearing in mind that the agenda is organized under nine headings, we shall consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. I should like to remind members once again that, at present, we are not discussing the substance of any item.

Items 1 and 2 have already been dealt with. We turn to items 3 to 8. May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to the inclusion of the items listed under heading A, "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences". May I take it that the items listed under heading A are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We come now to heading B, "Maintenance of International Peace and Security".

I give the floor to the representative of Armenia on a point of order.

Mr. Kazhoyan (Armenia): The Armenian delegation would like to make a short statement. As has been the case during the previous sessions, this year again my delegation dissociates itself from the consensus on the decision to transfer the consideration of agenda item 39 to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The President (*spoke in French*): We take note of that statement. May I take it that the items listed under heading B are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Next, we turn to heading C, "Development of Africa". May I take it that the item listed under this heading is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Now we come to heading D, "Promotion of human rights". May I take it that the items listed under heading D are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Heading E is entitled "Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts". May I take it that the item listed under this heading is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Next, we turn to heading F, "Promotion of justice and international law". May I take it that the items listed under heading F are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Now we turn to heading G, "Disarmament". May I take it that the items listed under this heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Heading H is entitled "Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations". May I take it that the items listed under this heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Lastly, we turn to heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the items listed under heading I are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to section IV of the report of the General Committee on the allocation of items. The General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 63 to 66. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 65 concerning the granting of observer status?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We shall now turn to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 67 to 71. We shall take up the recommendations one by

one. Before we proceed, may I remind members that the item numbers cited here refer to the agenda in paragraph 62 of the report before us, namely, document A/65/250.

We turn first to paragraphs 67 (a) to (k), which relate to a number of plenary items. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all of the information that the General Committee wishes it to take note of and approve all of the recommendations of the General Committee contained in paragraphs 67 (a) to (k)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We now turn to paragraph 68, concerning item 97, "General and complete disarmament". May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 68?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to paragraph 69, on sub-item (i) of item 20, concerning the Second Committee. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 69?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to paragraph 70, on the Second Committee, referring to item 28. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to approve the recommendation and to take note of the information contained in paragraph 70?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to paragraphs 71 (a) and (b), on the Fifth Committee, referring to items 130 and 140. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 71 (a) and (b)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We shall now turn to paragraph 72 of the report of the General Committee on the allocation of items to the plenary and to each Committee.

I first turn to the list of items recommended by the General Committee for consideration directly in plenary meeting under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items listed for plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn next to the list of items that the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the First Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the First Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We come now to the list of items that the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Second Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): We turn now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Third Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Next, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Fifth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Lastly, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Sixth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Sixth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the first report of the General Committee. I wish to thank all members of the Assembly for their cooperation.

Each Main Committee will receive the list of agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

I would now like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the Holy See, in its capacity as an Observer State, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/314 of 1 July 2004 and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/58/871, the Holy See, in its capacity as an Observer State, will participate in the work of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

I would also like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of Palestine, in its capacity as observer, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 43/177 of 15 December 1988, and 52/250 of 7 July 1998, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/52/1002, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, will participate in the work of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

I now give the floor to the representative of Azerbaijan on a point of order.

Mr. Musayev (Azerbaijan): I apologize for having requested the floor at this stage. I would like to make a short remark in regard to the statement made by the representative of Armenia.

It is more than astonishing that while both Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as the co-chair countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group have, as a result of the efforts made in their respective capitals and here in New York, agreed without reservation on the inclusion of the item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the delegation of Armenia has surprisingly dissociated itself from the consensus.

This is not the first time that Armenia has not taken the trouble to respect not only its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also gentlemen's agreements achieved with the facilitation of other Member States. Furthermore, the interference of Armenia in the process of approval of the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly seems curious for the following reasons, at a minimum.

First, it should be recalled that Armenia remained silent when the decision was adopted at the 119th plenary meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, held on 9 September 2010, to include the aforementioned item on the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. In other words, today Armenia has dissociated itself from the consensus on a decision in respect of which it had formally expressed consent a few days earlier.

Secondly, Armenia has acknowledged the validity and value of the agenda item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" on a number of occasions. Thus, on the request of the delegation of Armenia, 12 documents were circulated under this agenda item during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly alone.

Finally, by dissociating itself from the consensus, Armenia decided to act in a manner contrary to the position of the States Members of the United Nations and remains in isolation with its destructive political agenda, which is fated never to be realized. In reality, Armenia has demonstrated once again that it bears the primary responsibility for unleashing war against Azerbaijan, occupying its territories and committing the most serious international crimes in the captured Azerbaijani territories.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Kazhoyan (Armenia): I do not think attaching labels to Member States in this Hall can be considered to be a procedural statement on a point of order.

The President *(spoke in French)*: I remind the representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia that, as I said earlier in my preliminary comments, we are not currently discussing the substance of the agenda items, but only the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.